

THREE BRANCH INSTITUTE ON CHILD SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

STUDY PLAN

YEAR TWO

Study Mandate

- Collaborate and coordinate with the executive and judicial branches in Virginia's participation in the National Governors Association's Three Branch Institute on Child Social and Emotional Well-Being to improve the social and emotional well-being of foster care children in Virginia.

Identified Issues

- In April 2012, the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) published an informational memorandum providing guidance for measuring the concept of well-being of children and youth receiving child welfare services. The ACYF identified four primary domains for measuring a child's well-being. These include:
 - cognitive functioning,
 - physical health and development,
 - behavioral/emotional functioning, and
 - social functioning.
- The Three-Branch Institute on Child Social and Emotional Well-Being of the National Governors Association seeks to improve the social and emotional well-being of children in foster care in participating states. The Institute's Request for Proposals required the coordination and collaboration of the state's executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. Selected states are to develop a state-specific plan for children and youth receiving foster care services through the state's child welfare system. The Institute will provide support for states in:
 - identifying the nexus between the unique health, mental health, and education challenges of children in foster care;
 - examining strategies in which safety, permanency, and well-being are interrelated;
 - highlighting best or promising practices; and
 - identifying possible gaps or barriers in policy in order to improve outcomes for children connected to the child welfare system.
- Virginia was one of seven states selected to participate in the 2013-2014 Three-Branch Institute on Child Social and Emotional Well-Being.

Grant Activities

- Develop a state-specific plan to promote and measure well-being among children and youth receiving child welfare services
- Develop evidence-based and research-informed strategies that will have a positive impact on children's social and emotional well-being
- Strengthen, coordinate, and enhance existing efforts through cross-system collaboration
- Leverage Medicaid and other federal and state dollars to fund innovative practices
- Develop policies that improve outcomes for children in foster care
- Improve accountability of policy in day-to-day practice
- Strengthen existing partnerships and engage stakeholders

Study Activities**Year One**

- Review the National Governors Association's Three Branch Institute on Child Social and Emotional Well-Being Request for Proposals
- Meet with executive and judicial branch agencies
 - Office of Comprehensive Services for At-Risk Youth and Families
 - Department of Social Services
 - Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court
- Receive an update from the bidders' conference call (March 25, 2013)
- Provide information as needed for the proposal (April 22, 2013)
- Assist in the development of a coordinated plan of action
 - Review Virginia's current performance improvement plan (PIP) for the child welfare system
 - Determine the target population
 - Set measurable outcome goals and benchmarks of social and emotional well-being of children
 - Develop strategies that will have the greatest impact on the promotion of social, emotional, and physical well-being for children in foster care
 - Include a plan to track and measure progress, both in the short- and long-term
- Work with the executive and judicial branches in meeting the requirements of the grant
 - Participate in an all-state orientation conference call (May 29, 2013)
 - Prepare for the Three Branch Institute (June 2013)
 - Attend the Three Branch Institute (July 24-26, 2013)
 - Host an in-state technical assistance visit by Three Branch staff (July-November 2013)
 - Participate in all state conference calls/webinars (September 2013)
 - Submit Virginia's State Plan and Progress Report (January 2014)
- Present findings and recommendations to the Commission on Youth

Study Activities**Year Two**

- Develop the following strategies:
 - Manage by data to improve health and behavioral health outcomes;
 - Manage by data to improve education outcomes;
 - Improve appropriate and effective use of psychotropic medications for children in foster care; and
 - Increase access to and appropriate use of trauma-informed and evidence-based behavioral health services.
- Participate in an all-state orientation conference call
- Prepare for the Three Branch Institute
- Attend the Three Branch Institute (June 20-July 2, 2014)
- Participate in state conference calls/webinars (Dates to be determined)
- Submit State Plan and Progress Report (January 2014)
- Receive presentations from Virginia's Three Branch Team on the progress of strategy development and implementation (Dates to be determined)
- Present findings and recommendations to the Commission on Youth prior to the 2015 General Assembly Session